

News and information about Alaska Region Office of Science Applications and LCCs.

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## April Challenge Results

I recieved several educated guesses for which Alaska Refuge proportionally has the most designated Wilderness. The correct answer is Izembek National Wildlife Refuge with a whopping 74% being designated wilderness.

Several responses were nearly correct for the least proportion of designated Wilderness. Tied at 0% are Alaska Peninsula, Kanuti, Nowitna, Tetlin, and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges.

Thanks to Hilmar Maier for the contest idea.

## May Challenge

It is springtime and I've got migration on my mind! What Alaskan songbird migrates the farthest?

Bonus point how far do they travel each way?

Hint: Here's a picture of its distinctive nest.



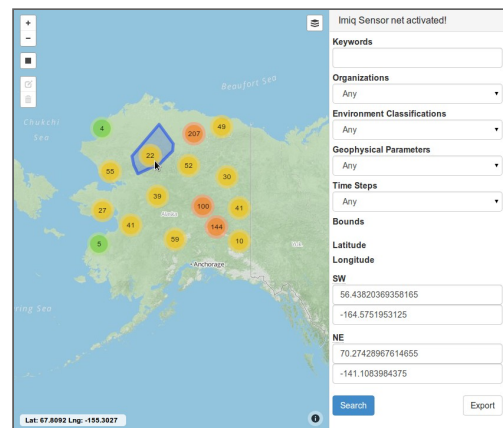
# Arctic LCC

## Everybody Talks About the Weather, but Nobody Does Anything About It (Until Now)

Field biologists have always long recorded the weather they endured. Old-school naturalists wrote it all down in their daily journal entries.

Today, we often use sophisticated sensors and loggers to continuously record weather data.

Weather is typically a prime suspect when we seek explanations for fluctuations in animal populations or productivity. With the emergence of climate change as an environmental driver, we must now pay attention not only to daily and seasonal weather, but also decadal and longer term weather records as an influence on ecosystems.





Although our expectation is that weather and climate are tremendously important influences on Alaska fish and wildlife, it is often difficult to explore those connections analytically.

There are not much data out there, and finding and using what IS out there can be time-consuming and perplexing. A “one-stop shop” for up-to-date Alaska weather data is still an unrealized dream, but the Arctic LCC , along with partners like the North Slope Science Initiative and the University of Alaska, are making significant progress toward that goal.

With support from the Arctic LCC and FWS Region 7, researchers at the International Arctic Research Center compiled Alaska hydroclimate data into a system called “Imiq.” The word Imiq means ‘freshwater’ in the Inupiat language of Northern Alaska. [Imiq](#) contains thousands of data streams from over 200 sources, including weather (e.g. air temperature, precipitation, snow depth), river discharge, water temperature, radiation, and many other variables. The effort focused initially on northern Alaska, but has expanded to include observation stations statewide.

The Geographic Information Network of Alaska (GINA) has developed the beta version for a map-based [data portal](#) , which will provide users with an overview of the hydroclimate information available for any area of interest and the ability to download selected data sets . While Imiq is still under development, we invite you to take a look and tell us what you think. If you have suggestions or comments, write to us at [staff@arcticlcc.org](mailto:staff@arcticlcc.org) and put “Imiq” in the subject line. We can’t “do” much about the weather, but we can do a better job making weather, climate and other data accessible!

### **Aleutian & Bering Sea Islands LCC**

*Partnership Leverages \$300K for Shared Science Priorities*



One of the goals of the LCCs is to leverage funding from the broader partnership community to meet shared needs. For FY14 projects,

### **Northwest Boreal LCC**

*Drivers of Landscape Change:  
Impacts on Natural Resources,  
Ecosystems, and Communities*



44 authors from the US and Canada are working together to synthesize the primary drivers of landscape change

ABSI partner organizations contributed nearly three times as much project funding as the LCC.

More information available [here](#).

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## **North Pacific LCC**

*New Assistant Science Coordinator*



The North Pacific LCC is pleased to announce that Jill Hardiman will be joining the NPLCC staff as Assistant Science Coordinator. Jill comes to the NPLCC from the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center. Jill has spent most of her life involved with coastal ecosystems, whether living alongside them or working within them. In her free time, Jill enjoys mountain biking and back country skiing, especially in British Columbia. Jill shares: "I am looking forward to working with the entire NPLCC team and learning about current projects within the NPLCC region, meeting the investigators, and helping assess future regional needs, tools, and projects."

in the NW boreal region, as well as their impacts. This peer-reviewed resource will provide a succinct overview of latest science and information for land and resource managers, policy makers, and communities, and interested public. The synthesis is an example of working across boundaries and across disciplines to further our understanding of boreal systems, where they might be headed, and the options for managing and adapting to future change. The edition is slated to be in press by the end of the calendar year.

Contact [Amanda Robertson](#) for more information.

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## **Western Alaska LCC**

*Plotting the Course*



The Strategic Science Plan for the Western Alaska LCC was approved by the Steering Committee at their May 13 meeting. This document provides a framework for the LCC's activities as it seeks to address the shared priority science and information needs of the region's stakeholders.

The finalized strategy will be available [here](#) by May 30.



# Upcoming Learning Opportunities

## Workshop

### National Workshop on Large Landscape Conservation

Call for Proposals: Dedicated Sessions, Presentations, and Posters.

**Submission Deadline (extended to) June 27, 2014**

Click [here](#) for more information

## Webinar

### Precipitation trends in Alaska: Data limitations and complex controls

June 17, 2014 - 10am AKDT

Click [here](#) for more information

## What's New in Alaska Region Science?

Paredes R, Orben RA, Suryan RM, Irons DB, Roby DD, et al. (2014) *Foraging Responses of Black-Legged Kittiwakes to Prolonged Food-Shortages around Colonies on the Bering Sea Shelf*. PLoS ONE 9(3): e92520.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0092520

**Saafeld, S.T., Hill, B., and Lanctot, R.B.** 2014. *Shorebird responses to construction and operation of a landfill on the Arctic Coastal Plain*. Condor 115(4):816–829.

Lounsberry, Zachary T., Julian B. Almeida, **Richard B. Lanctot**, Joseph R. Liebezeit, Brett K. Sandercock, Khara M. Strum, Steve Zack and Samantha M. Wisely. 2014. Museum collections reveal that Buff-breasted Sandpipers (*Calidris subruficollis*) maintained mtDNA variability despite large population declines during the past 135 years.

CAFF 2014. J. Appiott, Y. Aubry, T. Baldursson, T. Barry, H.C. Beng, A. Black, C. Y. Yi, N. Crockford, G. Donaldson, G. Gilbert, D. Gremillet, W. Hagemeijer, L. Janishevski, V. Johnston, I. Kaufman, **R. Lanctot**, M. Loonen, M. Marissink, S. Millington, P. Moss-Davies, P. Smith, R. Smith, E. Syroechkovskiy, and I. Thaulow. 2014. *The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI): Protecting Arctic Lifestyles and People through Migratory Bird Conservation*. Expert Workshop Report, Montreal, Canada, February 2014. CAFF Strategies Series No. 5. Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Akureyri, Iceland. ISBN: 978-9935-431-32-5.

**We would like to feature your recent publications and/or datasets here!**  
**If you have something you'd like to bring to a larger audience, please**  
**contact: [brett\\_parks@fws.gov](mailto:brett_parks@fws.gov).**

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